

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL P-16 COUNCILS

**P-16 Council
Agenda Item G
December 11, 2001**

Information

Since the P-16 Council's September meeting, two more proposals for local councils have been funded. The Council on Postsecondary Education approved \$100,000 in funding for local councils in March 2001.

Murray State University - \$7,500

MuSU will establish a region wide P-16 council, serving 31 school districts in 22 counties in cooperation with its recently created Teacher Quality Institute. It will begin its work by forming teams of teachers (grades 8-12) from each district and university faculty from various disciplines to connect high school and college curricula. P-16 faculty will develop syllabi, select textbooks, and meet in summer institutes. It will develop dual enrollment, mentoring, and recruitment programs targeting potential teachers beginning in eighth grade. It also will coordinate data collection and the development of smaller local P-16 councils within the region.

Purchase Area P-16 Council - \$10,000

Paducah Community College and West Kentucky Technical College initiated a local P-16 council with education, business, and civic leaders in the eight counties of the Jackson Purchase area: Ballard, Carlisle, Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall, and McCracken. Other postsecondary partners include Mid-Continent College, the University of Kentucky through its extended campus on the Paducah campus, and Murray State University. The partnership identified five areas of concern: long-term poverty, the need to increase college-going and to retrain the existing workforce, recent business and industry closures, the need for collaboration among education and business sectors, and the lack of regional data-based decision-making. The local council will identify innovative educational initiatives that can be replicated throughout the region, identify student achievement trends, and identify and address demographic changes in the workforce that can be incorporated into the Paducah Chamber of Commerce Business Education Web site.

The staff is assisting the development of other local P-16 councils across the state. Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, the University of Louisville, and the Fayette County school district joined by Central Kentucky Technical College are at various stages of forming local councils.

The council is marshalling other resources to support the development of local and regional P-16 councils throughout the state.

The model community initiative of the CPE's \$2.5 million public communication campaign ("Go Higher") is a grassroots effort to encourage and sustain education reform in various regions of the state. Ten communities were selected: Ashland (Boyd County); Lexington (Fayette County); Elizabethtown (Hardin County); Madisonville (Hopkins County); Louisville (Jefferson County); Paducah (McCracken County); the tri-county area of northern Kentucky; Hazard (Perry County); Somerset (Pulaski County); and Bowling Green (Warren County). As a first step, key education, business, and civic leaders in each community will form partnerships to increase participation and engagement in education programs. If the community does not have a P-16 council, they will be encouraged to form one; if they do, the P-16 council will be asked to take a lead role. The newly-funded Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education and the Purchase Area P-16 Council both support the model community initiative.

Finally, the CPE, as part of its 2002-2004 budget recommendation, has recommended that \$300,000 from the Enrollment Growth and Retention Trust Fund be allocated toward a P-16 Challenge Grant Program. To reduce the level of institutional competition for students, the P-16 Challenge program will reward regional P-16 partnerships among public and independent colleges, P-12 schools, and communities to better prepare students for, and enroll students in, postsecondary education. The councils will set goals to:

- Increase the college-going rate of GED completers and high school graduates.
- Reduce the percentage of adults with less than a high school diploma or GED.
- Raise the number of students taking the ACT.
- Raise the scores of students taking the ACT.
- Increase the number of AP or college-level courses per 100 high school juniors and seniors.
- Increase the percentage of high school students taking the pre-college curriculum or the ACT core coursework.
- Improve student performance on the CATS high school assessment.

Awards will be made to councils meeting their goals. Funds will be allocated to the designated fiscal agent of the regional council and further the work of the regional council to raise educational levels.

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